

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Appendix 4 Non-Statutory Consultation – Webinar Slides

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: 5.1.4

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

February 2023



CONSULTATION REPORT – APPENDIX 4 – NON- STATUTORY CONSULTATION – WEBINAR PRESENTATION

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Prepared By	Heckington Fen Energy Park Project Team (Copper Consultancy)	
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Rev 1	February 2023	Application Version

Appendix 4 Non-Statutory Consultation – Webinar Presentation



Heckington Fen Solar Park

Informal Consultation
November 2021



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We're Ecotricity, Britain's greenest energy company

Ecotricity have been building new sources of green energy and supplying it to homes and business, across Britain - for over 25 years.

We pioneered the concept of green electricity and of decentralised supply.

We supply nearly 200,000 businesses and homes around Britain with 100% green electricity made from the wind and the sun, and carbon neutralised gas.

We own and operate 74 wind turbines across the UK

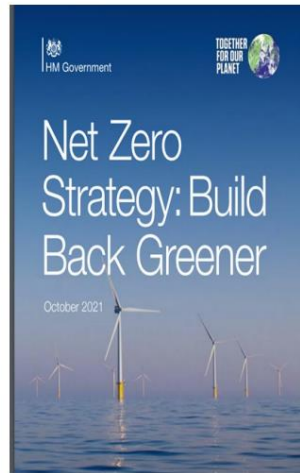


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Climate Change – time for action

'By 2035, all our electricity will need to come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, moving to a fully decarbonised power system whilst meeting a 40-60% increase in demand... This means increased investment in the grid network, electricity storage solutions and flexible grid management, to ensure decarbonisation without risking security of supply.'

(Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, page 78)



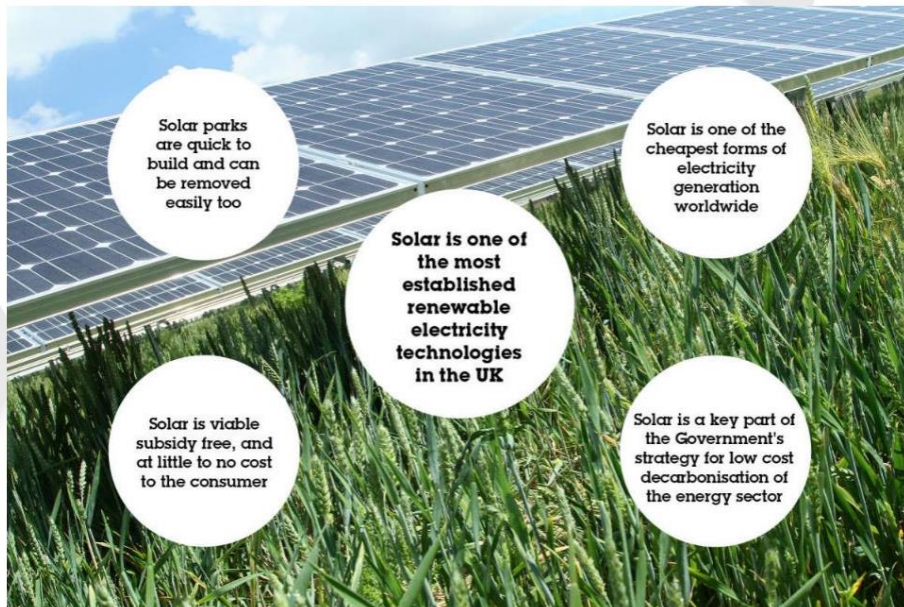
'COP26 needs to be decisive. Whether future generations look back at this time with admiration or despair, depends entirely on our ability to seize this moment. Let's seize it together.'

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (updated)



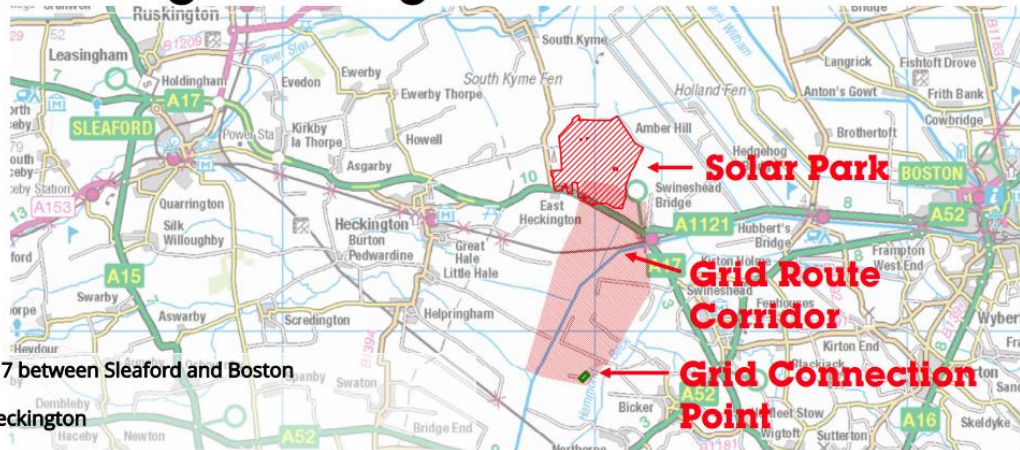
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Introducing Heckington Fen Solar Park



North of A17 between Sleaford and Boston

Parish of Heckington

Grid connection will be at the existing Bicker Fen sub-station

Majority of the crops grown on site are used for animal feed

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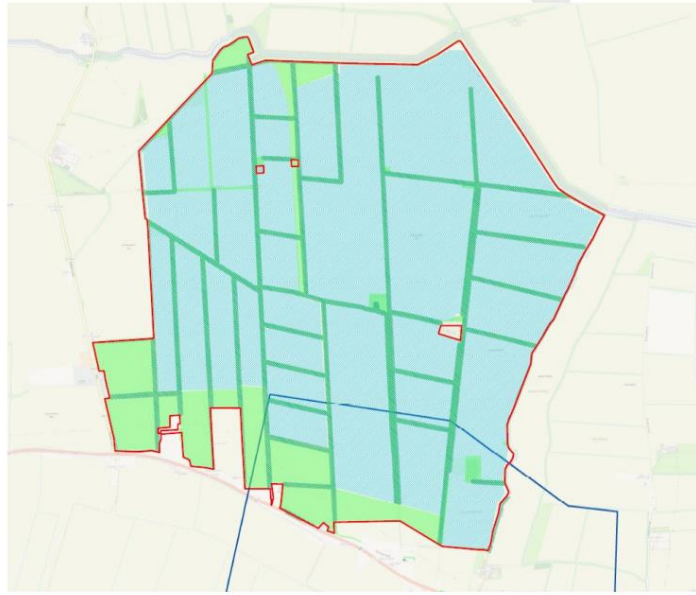
The Proposed Development

Capacity	Around 500MW direct current (DC) installed with an expected export capacity of around 400MW alternating current (AC)
Area	c.1,450 acres
Maximum height of panels	4.5m (up to)
Estimated electricity generation per year	385 million unit (kWh)
Estimated equivalent of homes powered per year	102,250
Estimated tonnes of CO2 saved per year	77,500

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Indicative Layout



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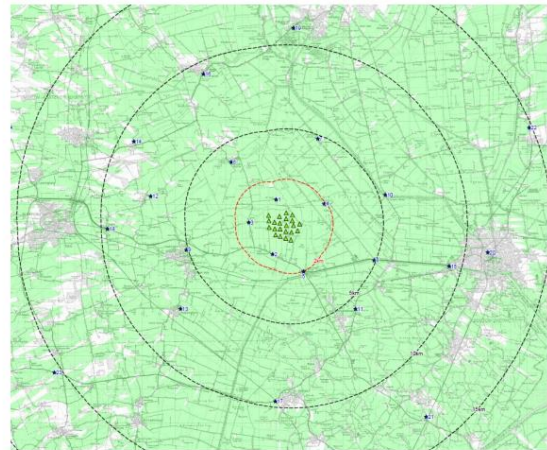
The Wind Park Application

22 wind turbines approved in 2013 with a tip height of 125m

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy currently considering an application to extend the life of the planning permission

Our view - there is no realistic prospect of a solution to the MOD radar issue in the short to medium term

We will not build the wind turbines if the solar park is approved and constructed



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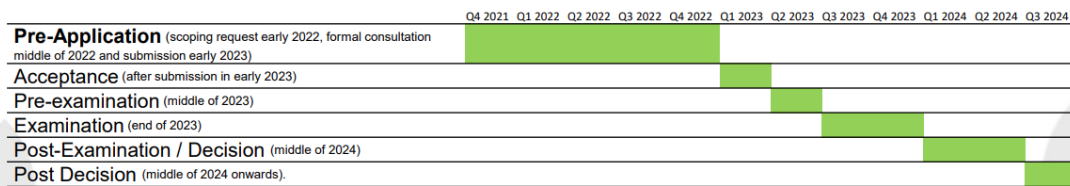
What is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project?

NSIPs are major infrastructure projects such as new harbours, roads, power generating stations (such as large-scale solar farms) and electricity transmission lines, which require a type of consent known as 'development consent' under procedures governed by the Planning Act 2008. Development consent, where granted, is made in the form of a **Development Consent Order (DCO)**.

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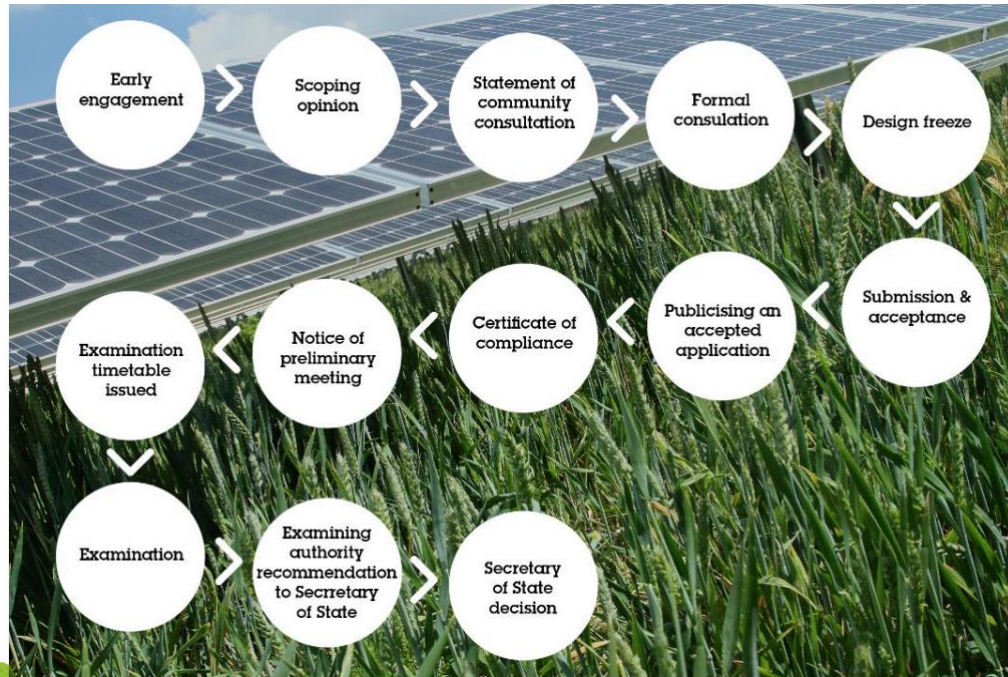
Project Timeline



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Process Timeline



The Development Consent Order (DCO) process

Planning Inspectorate (PINs) examines the application and will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the decision on whether to grant or to refuse development consent.

Although the **local authorities** will not decide whether the scheme goes ahead, evidence and opinions they provide will help shape the scheme. Some of the key areas of involvement are listed below:

- Scoping Report
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Statement on the adequacy of the Applicant's consultation
- Statements of Common Ground
- Submit a Local Impact Report
- Respond to the Examining Authority's questions and comment on other submissions.
- Hearings and site visits

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Aim of an EIA:

- To protect the environment by ensuring that the decision maker considers any likely significant effects on the environment.
- To ensure that the public are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision-making procedures.



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Site Assessments

Not limited to:

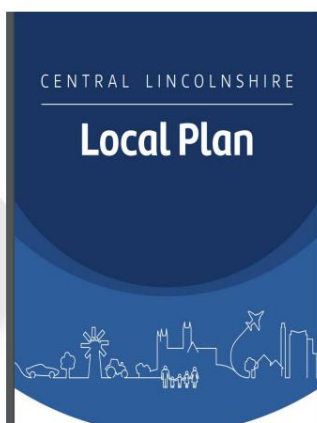
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Flood risk and hydrology
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecology and ornithology – including biodiversity net gain
- Noise
- Transport and access including construction
- Glint and glare
- Agricultural land classification
- Topographic survey



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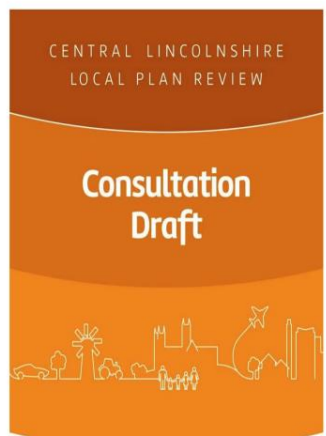
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Local Planning Context



Adopted 2017

Policy LP19 – 'proposals for non-wind renewable energy development...will be supported where the benefit of development outweighs the harm caused and it is demonstrated that any harm will be mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.'



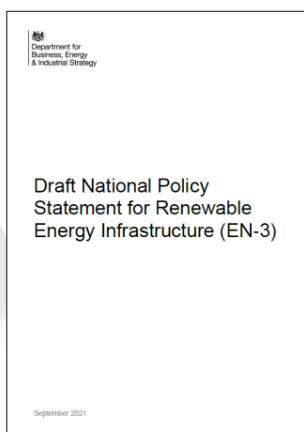
June 2021

Policy S13 - 'Proposals for ground-based photovoltaics, including large scale proposals, will be under a presumption in favour...'

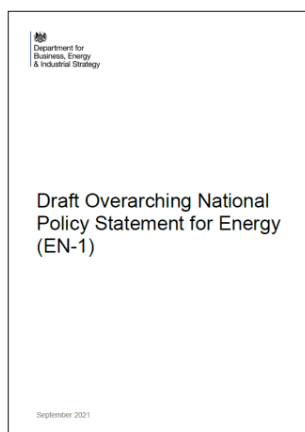
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National Planning Policy Context



'The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.'



'Wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply... analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.'

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Roadmap to net zero emissions for North Kesteven Council and the district of North Kesteven

Strategic Objectives : Increase renewable energy production and green infrastructure

Decision Making and Service Delivery : 1.9.1 Be honest with residents, communities and businesses in communications about the size of the challenge and action that needs to be taken

Energy, Carbon Capture, and Offsetting

4.3 Increase green infrastructure

4.4 Increase renewable energy production

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Engagement to date

Public – Newsletters distributed to nearly 6,000 residents and businesses, MPs, Parish Councils and amenity groups

LPAs – Initial meetings with NKDC, BBC, LCC and contact made with other neighbouring LPAs; officer discussions underway on cultural heritage, archaeology, and other specialisms.

Planning Inspectorate – Initial meeting held

Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees – newsletter shared and specialist consultants making contact with their relevant counterparts, e.g. Flood Risk and Environment Agency.

Website – is live, with a feedback form for interested parties to complete

We will continue to engage throughout the project development. A dedicated phone line, email and freepost address are available:

Telephone: 0800 151 0784

Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk

Address: FREEPOST Ecotricity Solar Park

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Engagement events (informal)

Informal consultation running to 17 December

4th November 10.00 – 11.30

13th November 11.00 – 12.30

15th November 18.00 – 19.30

A feedback form is available on our webpage:



Further formal consultation events
are planned for summer 2022

1. How would you describe your interest in the proposed Heckington Fen Solar Park?

- Local resident
- Local representative
- I work locally
- I regularly visit the area
- Statutory body
- I belong to a local interest group, (if yes, please can you name them)
- Other, please specify

Page 1 of 4

2. For each of the following statements please tell us whether you agree or disagree with them

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Climate change is an important issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK needs more renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK needs more energy storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving away from fossil fuel use is important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Have you seen a ground-mounted solar development (rather than rooftop solar)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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'YouGov poll shows public want renewables to be at the top of Government's plans for green growth'

(RenewableUK, 17 May 2021)

'UK poll reveals huge public backing for renewables'

(Renews.Biz, 12 November 2020)

'UN global climate poll: 'The people's voice is clear – they want action'

(The Guardian, 27 January 2021)

Sources:

YouGov plc 2021 on behalf of RenewableUK, May 2021
Public Attitudes Tracker, BEIS, November 2020
UNDP, The Peoples' Climate Vote, January 2021

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Thank you!

Any questions?

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